e-Safety

The internet is very much a part of life, it is available anywhere there is a wireless or wired connection, including TVs, mobile phones, game consoles as well as computers and laptops. As an educational establishment, we recognise the importance of the internet in our students' lives, not just in our primary focus of education, but also in our students' social interaction, leisure pursuits and creative expression.

The internet enhances our students' education; with access to the internet students have a wealth of knowledge at their fingertips. This, together with a carefully planned lesson, can enhance a students' knowledge of the subject matter at hand.

Whilst we recognise these benefits and the importance of the internet, we also recognise that there are drawbacks and potential dangers to anyone who uses it, for example:
- Access to inappropriate materials, such as pornography and violence
- Email scams
- Viruses
- Easier access to personal information
- Communication with strangers

Our teachers are trained to ensure our students use the internet in their lessons in a productive and informative way; for example when asked to research a subject, students are asked to make sure their information is from a credible source and that they check all the facts they find to avoid misinformation. They also discuss how to recognise risk taking and how to behave responsibly online.

If students have any concerns about their or someone else's use of the internet or technology, it is essential they discuss these concerns with a trusted adult as soon as possible to minimise any risk.

We have gathered together a handful of websites that contain excellent resources and provide up to date information about the internet and new technologies:

Thinkuknow
This website is managed by CEOP, the Child Exploitation and Online Protection government agency, this site has lots of up to date information on the new technologies available for use and explains the risks of using these technologies in and easily digestible format.
www.thinkuknow.co.uk

UK Safer Internet Centre
The Safer Internet Centre, holds e-safety tips, advice and resources to help children and young people stay safe on the internet
www.saferinternet.org.uk

Childnet International
Childnet International's mission is to work in partnership with others around the world to help make the Internet a great and safe place for children
www.childnet.com

Know IT All
Award winning resources for teachers and parents.
www.childnet.com/resources/kia

Kidsmart
A Website where you and your children can learn more about the internet and being a SMART surfer.
www.kidsmart.org.uk/parents